

MARCH

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

MARCH MEETING

DATE: Wednesday evening, March 18
TIME: TWO COMPLETE SHOWINGS.
First, at 7:30 p.m. and again at
approximately 8:40 p.m.
SUBJECT: "WILD WINGS" and
"SO LITTLE TIME"

A mix-up in the mails prevented our showing a fine documentary film from England, "WILD WINGS", when it was scheduled for June 1968. The quality of this Academy Award winner has encouraged us to try once again. The film, in color, explores the unique Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge, England and shows the many activities involved in the study and conservation of 122 of the 147 described species of wildfowl which either migrate to this sanctuary yearly or make it a permanent home. It also provides a rare look at many species of wildfowl which have seldom if ever been photographed with such clarity and beauty. A dramatic and stimulating example of film craftsmanship, it was produced by Edgar Anstey for British Transport Films in association with the Wildfowl Trust.

"SO LITTLE TIME", produced and photographed for the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and the American Petroleum Institute, is a fitting though disturbing companion piece carrying the subtle warning that for many creatures there is "so little time" unless we recognize that marshes, estuarine areas, lakes, ponds and potholes are being drained, filled or killed by pollution. We see life in the marsh and along the flyways, with intimate closeups of birds and mammals of the wet world during moments of peril, territorial disputes, at rest or in flight — the small worlds of muskrat, otter, skunk and beaver, wading birds, even bear and cougar. These, together with

fish, turtles and insects, are having their surrounding nature threatened by man's despoliation and could be wiped out forever unless we become involved in solving some pressing problems — as of now — for there really is "so little time".

Two complete programs as indicated, the first at *seven thirty* and the second at approximately *eight forty*. Your membership card for either 1969 or 1970 is your admission. 1969 cards will not be honored after this meeting. Two ways of ingress are available: Cowell Hall, Main Entrance; and the rear Planetarium entrance off Middle Drive.

The April membership meeting is scheduled for two separate evenings: Wednesday April 15 and Thursday April 16. We are making every possible effort to arrange our programs so that no one is disappointed. Please bear with us.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"ORION IN WINTER" continues in the Theatre of the Stars through March 1. Beginning March 5: "THE NEAREST STAR". Although we seldom think of our sun as a star, it is just that. Its distance is 93 million miles from us but it is the most important object in the life of man. What we know and do not know about the sun is the basis for this sky show.

Performances daily at 2:00 with evening shows, Wednesday through Sunday, at 8:30. Extra matinees, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, at 3:30. Admission: Adults, \$1.00, with half-price for children under 16, armed services personnel, and students with student body card.

NEWS and NOTES

THE ACADEMY now has in its possession an exquisite blue gem stone to add to its gem mineral collection (which one day will be on display): 39.55 carats of Tanzanite, presented through the good offices of Tiffany and Co. It is worth approximately \$5,000. Tanzanite, given its name by Tiffany Vice President Henry B. Platt, was discovered as recently as 1967 in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro near Arusha, Tanzania and is the first gem stone of its stature yielded since the days of the Hindus and the Romans. It is unusual in that it is trichroic with a presence of three colors — blue, purple, and salmon-brown. Of these color phases, blue is acknowledged to be the best and the Academy's new acquisition is bluer than the Aegean Sea.



The gift was presented by Mr. Eugene S. Scott, General Manager of Tiffany's San Francisco (above left) to Dr. George E. Lindsay, Director of the Academy.

THE PUBLIC INFORMATION Office is in need of a volunteer to assist in instituting a filing-cataloguing system for press photographs and other pictorial material. We are amassing a fine collection of pictures of the Academy complex, both inside and out, but order must come out of the present chaos if this material is to be used properly. If you are interested and can devote some time to this project, call the Academy at 221-5100, Extension 27.

THE 17TH ANNUAL San Francisco Bay Area Science Fair will be held at the Academy April 11-15. You are cordially invited to inspect these prize-winning exhibits by Bay Area youngsters.

Meet The Staff . . .

ANDREW J. BELL, Stationary Engineer in the Maintenance and Operation Department and particularly Steinhart Aquarium, has been in Academy employ since January 1959. He is one of seven engineers employed who serve 'round the clock, overseeing and alertly guarding the highly complex water systems which make the aquarium tick. These men are the safeguards for the welfare of some ten thousand specimens which are on display at all times in Steinhart. They are ever-watchful of the Johnson Control Panel which is figuratively the "heartbeat" of the aquarium which, by alarms or red lights, in-



Photo by Lloyd Ullberg

icates any source of trouble or change either locally or at the beach pumping plant located near San Francisco's Playland at the Beach. Steinhart is supplied every hour with between 3600 and 4000 gallons of salt water direct from the Pacific.

A native San Franciscan, Andy graduated from Mission High School and promptly joined the U.S. Navy where he remained for the next 23+ years, laboring in fire rooms and engine rooms, service which took him to Europe, Asia and through the South Pacific. He retired from the Navy in 1950 as a Chief Boiler Man and returned to the Bay Area.

For a period he was an engineer with an Army installation on Angel Island, then joined the Westco Pump Company. This was followed by a position for a year as Stationary Engineer for the State Board of Correction at Soledad. This last job immediately preceded his employment at Steinhart.

Most of his off-time is devoted to his family. He has five grown children, 13 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter and is proud of the whole lot. He goes fishing on occasion (what else?), gardens, collects coins and reads extensively about them. But firstly, he is quite content, after all his world travel, to enjoy a pleasantly quiet life with his wife Bess in their home not far from Golden Gate Park.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

Regular Members

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Contributing Member

Miss Arlene Wierda

THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Golden Gate Park

San Francisco 94118

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PAID
San Francisco, Calif.
Permit No. 7544

Ref.
Q 11
C 22
No. 363

ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

No. 363 — Published Monthly by the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
GOLDEN GATE PARK • SAN FRANCISCO 94118

MARCH 1970